

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A traction band for use on a tracked vehicle comprising a plurality of road wheels and at least one sprocket wheel, said traction band being made of an elastomeric material, having an inner surface which faces said plurality of road wheels and said at least one sprocket wheel and an outer surface which faces the surface over which the vehicle travels, comprising:

a longitudinally extending band body;

at least one row of ~~lugs~~ guide horns which protrude along said inner surface of said traction band, said guide horns being not drivingly engaged by said sprocket wheel;

guide horn~~lug~~ reinforcements having a reinforcing portion extending into said guide horns~~lugs~~ and connected to at least one stabilizing portion embedded in said band body;

whereby said guide horn reinforcements reduce lateral deflection of said guide horns.

2. (Currently amended) A traction band as claimed in claim 1, wherein said band body comprises main tensile cords along its circumference and wherein said stabilizing portions are located between said inner surface and ~~above~~ said main tensile cords.

3. (Withdrawn) A traction band as claimed in claim 1, wherein said band body comprises main tensile cords along its circumference and wherein said stabilizing portions are located under said main tensile cords.

4. (Original) A traction band as claimed in claim 1, wherein said reinforcing portion comprises longitudinally extending areas.

5. (Original) A traction band as claimed in claim 4, wherein said longitudinally extending areas are parallel planar areas.

6. (Original) A traction band as claimed in claim 4, wherein said longitudinally extending areas are inclined planar areas connected to each other.

7. (Original) A traction band as claimed in claim 6, wherein each reinforcing portion contains a laterally extending structure which laterally rigidifies said reinforcing portion.

8. (Currently amended) A traction band as claimed in claim 7, wherein said laterally extending structure is a local ~~n~~ embossing in said planar area of said reinforcing portion on said ~~longitudinally extending areas.~~

9. (Currently amended) A traction band as claimed in claim 1, wherein said stabilizing portion is longitudinally extending with respect to said band body.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) A traction band as claimed in claim 10, wherein said guide lugs are located on said central band portion.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A traction band as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said ~~lug~~ guide horn reinforcement is a rigid sheet-like plate.

14. (Original) A traction band as claimed in claim 13, wherein said plate is a metal plate.

15. (Original) A traction band as claimed in claim 13, wherein said plate is a plastic plate.
16. (Withdrawn) A traction band as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said lug reinforcement is a plurality of generally parallel cords.
17. (Withdrawn) A traction band as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said lug reinforcement is a plurality of generally parallel rods.
18. (Withdrawn) A traction band as claimed in claim 1, wherein each said stabilizing portion comprises v-shaped extremities.
19. (Withdrawn) A traction band, as claimed in claim 1, wherein said stabilizing portions are laterally wider than said reinforcing portions.
20. (Currently amended) A traction band, as claimed in claim 1, wherein the surface of said road wheels which faces said inner surface is substantially vertically in line with ~~positioned over~~ said stabilizing portion.
21. (New) A traction band for use on a tracked vehicle comprising a plurality of road wheels and at least one sprocket wheel, said traction band being made of an elastomeric material, having an inner surface which faces said plurality of road wheels and said at least one sprocket wheel and an outer surface which faces the surface over which the vehicle travels, comprising:
- a longitudinally extending band body;
  - at least one row of guide horns which protrude along said inner surface of said traction band, said guide horns being not drivingly engaged by said sprocket wheel;
  - guide horn reinforcements having a reinforcing portion extending into said guide horns and connected to at least one stabilizing portion embedded in said band body;
- wherein each said guide horn reinforcement is a rigid sheet-like plate and whereby said guide horn reinforcements reduce lateral deflection of said guide horns.